

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A seat assembly for a motor vehicle, comprising:
a seat and a backrest, wherein said backrest comprises:
5 a first child seat portion comprising opposing first and second sides, wherein
said first side is pivotally interconnected with said backrest; and
a second child seat portion pivotally interconnected with said first child seat
portion near said second side of said first child seat portion.
2. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
10 said first child seat portion comprises an infant seating surface.
3. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 2, wherein:
said first child seat portion comprises an upholstered surface opposite said infant
seating surface.
4. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
15 said second child seat portion comprises an infant back-supporting surface.
5. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:
said second child seat portion comprises a child seating surface opposite said infant
back-supporting surface.
6. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
20 said first child seat portion comprises a first component of an infant restraint system.
7. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 6, wherein:
said second child seat portion comprises a second component of said infant restraint
system.

8. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

a supplemental backrest pivotally interconnected with said backrest, wherein said supplemental backrest comprises a seating surface and an opposing backrest surface.

9. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein:

5 said supplemental backrest is disposed within a first receptacle defined in said seat when in a first position, and wherein said supplemental backrest is disposed in a second receptacle defined in said backrest when in a second position.

10. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

10 said seat comprises a supplemental seating apparatus, wherein said backrest surface of said supplemental backrest is disposed between said seating surface of said supplemental backrest and said supplemental seating apparatus when said supplemental backrest is in said first position.

11. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising:

15 a supplemental backrest, wherein said supplemental backrest is substantially housed within an interior portion of said backrest when in a first position, and wherein said supplemental backrest is disposed at a peripheral portion of said backrest when in a second position.

12. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

20 said backrest comprises a third child seat portion pivotally interconnected with said backrest, wherein said third child seat portion comprises a restraint device when in a first position, and wherein said third child seat portion comprises a back-supporting component of said backrest when in a second position.

13. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 12, wherein:

said backrest comprises a first portion of a child restraint system, wherein said first portion of said child restraint system is substantially hidden when said third child seat portion is disposed in said first position.

14. A seat assembly, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein at least one of said
5 first and second child seat portions comprises a second portion of said child restraint system.

15. A method of using a seat assembly of a motor vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:

configuring the seat assembly in an infant seat arrangement for accommodating an infant;

5 configuring the seat assembly in a booster seat arrangement for accommodating a child; and

configuring the seat assembly in an adult seat arrangement for accommodating an adult,

wherein said configuring steps are accomplished without adding or removing
10 components from the motor vehicle.

16. A method, as claimed in Claim 15, wherein:

said configuring the seat assembly in an infant seat arrangement step comprises:

pivoting an infant seating portion of the seat assembly relative to a backrest of the seat assembly with which the infant seating portion is interconnected; and

15 pivoting an infant backrest portion of the seat assembly relative to the infant seating portion with which the infant backrest portion is interconnected.

17. A method, as claimed in Claim 15, wherein:

said configuring the seat assembly in a booster seat arrangement step comprises pivoting a booster seating portion of the seat assembly relative to a backrest of the seat
20 assembly with which the booster seating portion is interconnected.

18. A method, as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:

configuring the seat assembly in a toddler seat arrangement for accommodating a toddler.

19. A method, as claimed in Claim 18, wherein:

said configuring the seat assembly in a toddler seat arrangement step comprises:

pivoting a toddler seating portion of the seat assembly relative to a backrest of the seat assembly with which the toddler seating portion is interconnected; and

5 pivoting a toddler restraint relative to the backrest of the seat assembly.

20. A method, as claimed in Claim 19, wherein:

at least one of said configuring the seat assembly in a toddler seat arrangement step and said configuring the seat assembly in a booster seat arrangement step comprises deploying a supplemental backrest portion of the seat assembly.